

SENATE BILL 40

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2003 Regular Session
3r0595
CF 3r0596

By: **Senators Pinsky, Conway, and Kittleman**
Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2003
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in**
3 **Maryland - Sunset Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a new termination date for the Study Commission on
5 Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland; altering the date by which the
6 Commission must report its findings and recommendations, including suggested
7 legislative changes, to the Governor and the General Assembly; making a
8 stylistic change; and generally relating to an extension of the sunset for the
9 Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in Maryland.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Chapter 169 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002
12 Section 1 and 2

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2002**

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is a Study Commission on Public Funding of Campaigns in
19 Maryland.

20 (b) The Commission shall consist of the following 15 members:

21 (1) Three members of the Senate of Maryland, one of whom shall be a
22 member of the minority party, appointed by the President of the Senate;

23 (2) Three members of the House of Delegates, one of whom shall be a
24 member of the minority party, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

25 (3) Seven individuals appointed by the Governor, including:

26 (i) A member of the State Board of Elections;

- 1 (ii) A member of the State Ethics Commission;
- 2 (iii) A member of a statewide organization concerned with campaign
3 finance practices, fair elections, and ethics in government; and
- 4 (iv) Four additional individuals; and
- 5 (4) One member of the public appointed by the Minority Leader of the
6 Senate and one member of the public appointed by the Minority Leader of the House.
- 7 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Commission.
- 8 (d) The Department of Legislative Services and the State Board of Elections
9 shall provide staff for the Commission.
- 10 (e) The Commission shall:
- 11 (1) Collect information relating to the practice of public funding of
12 election campaigns in other jurisdictions in the United States;
- 13 (2) Analyze current practices in Maryland relating to campaign
14 contributions, funding, and activities; including:
- 15 (i) The nature and extent of campaign contributions for elections in
16 Maryland by donors, including individuals, corporations, political committees, unions,
17 and other persons or entities, and the characteristics of such donors;
- 18 (ii) The changes or trends in the total amount of contributions to
19 candidates for elections in Maryland over the past several decades and the nature of
20 such changes or trends, including but not limited to changes in the contribution
21 patterns of any of the donors listed in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph;
- 22 (iii) The effectiveness of current Maryland election laws in
23 maintaining confidence in the fairness and openness of elections, in preserving the
24 democratic process, and in preventing undue influence or the appearance of undue
25 influence by particular donors; and
- 26 (iv) The effect that the increasing need to raise substantial
27 campaign contributions has on the ability of elected officials to perform their duties
28 effectively and to serve the interests of all of their constituents equitably;
- 29 (3) Receive testimony as the Commission considers appropriate;
- 30 (4) Consider the effects of public funding of election campaigns, and if
31 appropriate, make recommendations for implementing a system of public funding of
32 statewide and legislative election campaigns in Maryland;
- 33 (5) Examine the State election code as it relates to changes needed to
34 implement public funding of election campaigns; and

1 (6) On or before December 31, [2002,] 2003, report its [finding]
2 FINDINGS and recommendations, including any proposed statutory changes to the
3 Maryland election laws, to the Governor, and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State
4 Government Article, to the General Assembly for consideration by the General
5 Assembly in the [2003] 2004 Session.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 July 1, 2002. It shall remain effective for a period of [1 year] 2 YEARS and, at the end
8 of June 30, [2003,] 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
9 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 June 1, 2003.